

Celebrating Collaboration

Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

You can get involved in the HSCB by joining a workgroup!

WHERE CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Transportation
- Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship
- Substance Abuse · Homelessness
 - Healthy Youth · Hunger
 - Mental Health Awareness
 - Individuals with Disabilities
- Older Adults · Young Children
 - Community Data

In This Issue

What's New?

Workgroup Spotlight

Stories of Hope

Upcoming Events

HSCB

Amy Johnston
Collaborative Planner
ajohnston@cmhliv.org



What's New in Livingston County?

Your Voice Matters Survey

The Abilities Alliance is a coalition of service organizations that strive to provide the most effective services for ALL ABILITIES in our community. The Abilities Alliance sends out a survey every other year to understand needs, identify service gaps and gather information from Livingston County community members who identify as having a disability.

Who should take the survey:

Any Livingston County community member with a disability. If you are a support person, caregiver, parent, or provider, please encourage and/or help the individual(s) fill out this survey in the person's voice. It is vital that we gain input directly from individuals with disabilities.

The survey is available online:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022AANeedsSurvey

The survey is open from January 24 to March 4

For more information on the coalition check out the workgroup's [website](#),

LACASA HAPPENINGS

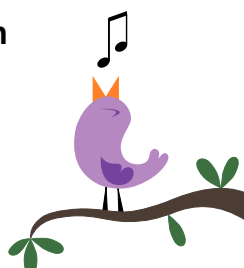
Cinderella's Closet Prom Boutique

(April 2 & 4-9): The Closet is an eco-friendly shop that offers gently-loved formalwear for high school students at affordable prices. Formalwear is just \$25 and all proceeds help fund youth empowerment programs at LACASA.

Child Abuse Prevention Month (April): This month-long initiative brings awareness to Livingston County about child abuse prevention and education. Pinwheels, the symbol for child abuse prevention, can be purchased at [LACASA Collection](#) and placed in homes, businesses, or planted in yards to raise awareness. All proceeds help fund children's programs at LACASA.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April): This month-long initiative focuses on raising awareness about sexual assault and providing hope to victims and survivors across our community. A free "Journey to Healing" event will take place on April 30 and will offer self-care opportunities and information to the public.

Event details and information on special awareness days can be found at lacasacenter.org



Workgroup Spotlight:

Mental Health Awareness

The Mental Health Awareness Workgroup addresses suicide prevention planning.

The objectives of the workgroup include:

- Create a community where suicide is viewed as a mental health crisis that can be prevented
- Identify community values around the issue of suicide
- Decrease stigma associated with mental illness
- Increase help-seeking behaviors
- Identify risk and protective factors
- Identify training needs and develop a training plan
- Identify available data and gaps in data
- Broaden awareness of community resources through collection of current services/efforts
- Develop short and long term recommendations for programming and public awareness

The workgroup just updated these info cards to be shared with the local schools.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

You are not alone!

If you or someone you know is feeling depressed or anxious, please know that you can and will feel better with help!

Risk Factors to Know <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hopelessness -Impulsive and/or aggressive tendencies -History of trauma or abuse -Major physical illnesses -Previous suicide attempt(s) -Loss of relationship(s) -Lack of social support & sense of isolation -Stigma associated with asking for help -Alcohol & other substance use disorders 	Skills to Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Talk to an adult you trust -Try not to isolate yourself -Make time to exercise -Get regular sleep -Eat healthy foods -Encourage friends to talk -Cut back on social media -Volunteer and become active in the community 	The Connection Youth Services - call/text 1-(866)440-SAFE(7233) Community Mental Health (24/7) 517-546-4126 Crisis Text Line Text HOME to 741741 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255
---	--	---

Livingston County Catholic Charities Upcoming Events and Ongoing Groups

Livingston County Catholic Charities presents...

Salute to the Stars

March 26, 2022

Crystal Gardens

Star Sponsors: WEINGARTZ & DONNA ENGLAND
 Radio Media Sponsor: CHESTNUT DEVELOPMENT
 Entertainment Sponsor: BRUCE & ELIZABETH HUNDLEY

Salute to the Stars 2022 Celebration

March 26, 2022 - 6:30pm at Crystal Gardens
 Entertainment by
 Denise Davis & the Motor City Sensations
 Visit www.LivingstonCC.org for more information

Dementia Specific Caregiver Support Group

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:00-6:00 pm;
 Email LeAnn@LivingstonCC.org for Zoom info

Elder Abuse Recovery Support Group

3rd Tuesday of each month, 3:00-4:00 pm (In-Person); Email Beth@LivingstonCC.org

Foster Parent Orientation

3rd Monday of each month, 5:00-7:00 pm;
 Email Amy@LivingstonCC.org for Zoom info

Substance Abuse Engagement Groups

Mondays 5:00-6:30 pm & 6:30-8:00 pm (In-Person)
 Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00 am-11:30 pm (Zoom); Email Jessica@LivingstonCC.org or 517-375-1652 for Zoom Info

Stories of Hope

VINA Community Dental Center provides dental care to low-income Livingston County residents who do not have dental insurance, and before being referred to VINA; Wanda rarely smiled. Every time she laughed, she would cover her mouth with her hand because she was embarrassed by the condition of her teeth.

At VINA, she got multiple extractions and fillings. After treatment, Wanda said, **“With great support from the staff throughout, my self-confidence and well-being so improved. . . I’m grinning all the time!”**

During her appointments, VINA also alerted her to several high blood pressure readings and urged her to see a primary care physician. She did and was able to control her blood pressure with medications. Wanda says **“Not only did VINA bring back my smile, they probably saved my life.”**



Wanda uses six words to summarize her experience at VINA:

“Negative infection, negative pain, positive celery.”

Wanda says that celery was the food she missed the most before her teeth were fixed and she is so happy to be able to enjoy it again without feeling pain or discomfort.

Alzheimer's Association Events

Howell Dementia Caregiver Support Group

First Tuesday of the month, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

This group meets at the Livingston Educational Service Agency, but meetings may take place virtually, depending on COVID-19 case numbers. To register and confirm whether the group is meeting in person or virtually, please contact the Alzheimer's Association's Helpline at 800.272.3900 or helplinegmc@alz.org.

Brighton Dementia Caregiver Support Group

First Monday of the month, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

The meetings take place at Independence Village of Brighton Valley but meetings may take place virtually, depending on COVID-19 case numbers. To register and confirm whether the group is meeting, please contact the Alzheimer's Association's Helpline at 800.272.3900 or helplinegmc@alz.org.

Effective Communication Strategies for

Alzheimer's Disease - March 7, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Virtually co-hosted by Fowlerville District Library
Join us to explore how communication takes place when someone has Alzheimer's.

Living with Alzheimer's: Caregiving in the Middle Stage of Alzheimer's

Three-part series: April 5, 12, & 19, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Hosted by Salem-South Lyon District Library - 9800 Pontiac Trail, South Lyon, MI 48178

Join us for this three-part series and hear caregivers and professionals discuss helpful strategies to provide safe, effective, and comfortable care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's.

To register for all classes, call 800.272.3900 or email helplinegmc@alz.org

ADOPTION DAY 2021

Unable to hold an Adoption Day event in 2020, the Livingston County Trial Courts held a show-stopping event on November 23, 2021! The event celebrates and finalizes the adoptions of several area youth. The county's adoption case filings have been down a substantial amount over the course of the last two years, which made the Court's event even more special for the children and their families.

Chief Probate Judge Miriam Cavanaugh was joined by Juvenile Referee Chelsea Thomason, District Court Judge Shauna Murphy, and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra in presiding over the finalization of 7 adoptions of foster care children from Livingston County.

The event started with a musical entrance, complete with a laser light show and video on the importance of adoption while highlighting the struggles the pandemic has placed on providing permanency for children across the country. Families shared their stories with a packed courtroom of supporters in-person and via Zoom. By the end of the morning, 7 children had new names and more importantly, **forever families!** Following the hearings, the children and their families and supporters joined together for a reception.



COLLABORATION WORKS!

VINA Community Dental Center provides dental care to low-income Livingston County residents who do not have dental insurance. Recently, VINA has partnered with two area organizations to provide free dental care to veterans.

Of more than 20 million veterans in the United States in 2019, fewer than 1 million had dental care coverage through the VA (Source: Oxford University Press). With less than 5 percent of veterans getting dental care through the VA, VINA, and other organizations in the community have worked to fill the needs of the men and women who served our country.

VINA and Livingston County Veteran Services (LCVS) have teamed up to support Livingston County's veterans. All current and new patients at VINA who are active or retired military are referred to LCVS to meet with a staff member or volunteer and their fees and prosthetic work at VINA are paid for by LCVS. This helps LCVS reach veterans and provide additional services while making it easier financially for them to receive much-needed dental care.

For veterans who don't qualify as regular VINA patients (income requirements, Livingston County resident, no dental insurance), there is another program at VINA that covers seven neighboring counties. **The Victors for Veterans Program is a partnership with the University of Michigan School of Dentistry** that provides free dental care to low-income veterans in seven counties (Livingston, Genesee, Shiawassee, Washtenaw, Ingham, Oakland, and Jackson). U of M students and faculty donate their time at the VINA clinic to provide full treatment for veterans, free of cost. The program covers extensive work including dentures, oral surgery, crowns, extractions, fillings, and more.

Please visit www.vinadental.org or call (810) 844-0240 to learn more about these programs to help veterans.

the quarterly quote

GONE FROM MY SIGHT

- HENRY VAN DYKE

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side, spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone." Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast, hull, and spar as she was when she left my side.

And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone," there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And that is dying...

MEGAN PALMER
FOREVER IN
OUR HEARTS



The **2022 OLHSA Walk for Warmth** will be held on May 14th at the Hartland Community Education Center.

This family-friendly event is held annually to benefit the residents of Livingston County who are struggling to stay warm during the colder months of the year. **The funds raised stay here in our county--**and we need your help to raise awareness of the many programs that are available to assist those who are in need.

Save
the
Date!



Preventative
Dental Care



Emergency Dental Care



Full Service & Ongoing
Dental Treatment



Do You Know Where To Go?

MCDC provides dental care for all, including those on Healthy Kids Dental, Healthy Michigan Plan, Adult Medicaid, Private Insurances, and those who are uninsured.

Visit MyDental.org to
schedule an
appointment today!



*Ensuring a system
of support for
members of our
community*

Connect with Local Resources



LIVINGSTON COUNTY
RESOURCE BOX

www.livgov.com/hscb

* Housing	* Substance Use	* Senior Supports
* Food	* Mental Health	* Emergency Supports
* Transportation	* Foster Care	

**Livingston County
Human Services
Collaborative Body**

622 E. Grand River Ave
Howell, Michigan 48843
Phone: 517.586.2039
Fax: 517.552.2526
ajohnston@cmhliv.org

HSCB SPRING 2022

2022 LIVINGSTON COUNTY COMMUNITY CONNECT REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 5, 2022

2|42 COMMUNITY CHURCH

BY THE NUMBERS

101 first-time guests!



277 Guests

148 Households

44 Exhibitors

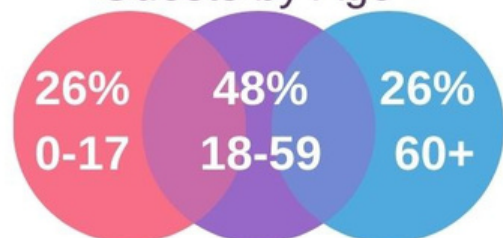
164 Volunteers (650 Hours)

WHAT IS COMMUNITY CONNECT?

Livingston County
Homeless Continuum of Care
hosts this annual community-wide
outreach event to provide essential
services to our neighbors.

WHO COMES TO COMMUNITY CONNECT?

Guests by Age



WHERE DO GUESTS COME FROM?

83% from Livingston County
17% out of the county - including
7 surrounding communities

SUPPORT PROVIDED:

- Gleaner's- Food Boxes
- Lake Trust - Laundry Detergent
- 2|42 - Venue Host & Diapers
- Cornerstone - Personal Care Kits
- 1st United Methodist - Socks
- The Salvation Army & Love, INC - winter gear
- Latter Day Saints - Sack Lunch
- Access to Local Resources

THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS!



Livingston County
United Way
lcunitedway.org



Livingston County
Homeless Continuum of Care